

Water Conservation News

Department of Water Resources

Division of Local Assistance

Water Conservation Office

What is the demand reduction *beyond* BMPs?

The next update of the Department of Water Resources' **California Water Plan**, Bulletin 160-98, will include regional and statewide options for balancing water supply with demand. The statewide options will include demand management beyond urban Best Management Practices and agricultural Efficient Water Management Practices as they are currently envisioned.

DWR's Water Conservation Office will closely analyze demand reduction options for this Bulletin. Evaluating these options will determine if more demand reduction

can help bring supplies and demands into balance without impacting California's economy, environment, and quality of life. These demand reduction options could help close the gap between supply and demand beyond the 1.3 million acre-feet of demand reduction that DWR already forecasts to occur by 2020.

The evaluation criteria that has been developed for the next update of the **California Water Plan** is intended to address the following concerns in order to evaluate the costs,

(continued on page 2)

Light at the End of the Tunnel for AB 3616

The AB 3616 process is moving forward rapidly. DWR expects a signed Memorandum of Understanding by the end of the year and the first meeting of the Agricultural Water Management Council early in 1997.

The Workshops

Nine workshops were completed this summer to inform agricultural water suppliers and environmental interests about the MOU's history, development, purpose, and program requirements. Over 150 people attended. Comments from the workshops were incorporated into a final draft MOU which was mailed out in September for comments and approval at the AB 3616 Committee on October 15.

The MOU

During October, the final MOU will be mailed out for signature and, in November

and December, agencies will be asked to sign the MOU at the Association of California Water Agencies' regional meetings, in water agency newsletters and various other mailers, and by personal contacts. At the ACWA meeting in San Diego in December, an AB 3616 panel will convene and participants who have not yet signed the MOU will be given an opportunity to ask questions and hopefully will be motivated to become signatories.

The Council

Part of the AB 3616 process involves creating an Agricultural Water Management Council. The Council will be comprised of three groups:

Group 1—Water Purveyors

Group 2—Environmental Organizations

Group 3—Interested Parties

Groups 1 and 2 will have voting members. The first

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Water Conservation News provides information on the latest developments in agricultural and urban water conservation programs. This is a free newsletter published quarterly by the California Department of Water Resources, Division of Local Assistance, Water Conservation Office.

For more information about DWR's water conservation programs, call Ed Craddock, Chief, Water Conservation Office, at (916) 327-1655; Keith Watkins, Urban Water Conservation, at (916) 327-1808; or Baryohay Davidoff, Agricultural Water Conservation, at (916) 327-1788. Information is also available from any of the following DWR District staff:

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(916) 529-7399

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(818) 543-4600

We welcome any comments, suggestions, and story ideas; please send them to:

Alice Dyer, Editor
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P. O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Telephone: (916) 327-1653
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E-mail: adyer@water.ca.gov

DWR does not endorse any of the businesses or consulting firms mentioned in this newsletter, since there may be others that offer the same or similar services.

Demand Reduction beyond BMPs

(continued from page 1)

benefits, and effects of each option.

Engineering

- engineering and operational feasibility
- drought year yield and reliability
- water quality limitations
- early implementation

Economics

- financial feasibility
- cost per acre-foot

Environmental

- environmental risks
- irreversible commitment of resources
- collective impact
- proximity to environmentally sensitive resources

Institutional/Legal

- permitting requirements
- adverse institutional/legal effects on the water source and water use areas
- consensus by various stakeholders

Social/Third Party

- adverse third-party effects in the water source or water use areas

- any other social and community effects

Other Benefits

- ability to provide benefits in addition to water supply

Using this analytical procedure, the most cost-effective demand reduction options with the least environmental and socioeconomic impacts will be identified for each of the 10 hydrologic regions in California. Water demand reduction options will be developed for the following:

- ▶ Outdoor Water Use—Irrigation
- ▶ Residential Indoor Water Use
- ▶ Interior Commercial/Institutional Water Use
- ▶ Interior Industrial Water Use
- ▶ Distribution System Losses
- ▶ Irrigation Management
- ▶ Lining or Piping Canals
- ▶ District Tailwater or Spill Recovery Systems
- ▶ Flexible Water Delivery
- ▶ Evapotranspiration Reduction

This process will provide a more detailed analysis of conservation than has been accomplished in previous updates of the **California Water Plan**. For example, options analyzed in the "Outdoor Water Use—Irrigation" category will be based on modifying the plant factor used in the Model Landscape Ordinance. This procedure will also identify the many areas where data is sparse for estimating landscape demand reduction.

Stay tuned for further developments in upcoming issues of **Water Conservation News**.

Editorial

by Ed Craddock

Why sign a voluntary Ag MOU?

There is a real trick to developing a voluntary program that would result in the expenditure of time and money. Water suppliers must see that the benefits outweigh the burdens before they sign the Ag MOU. The AB 3616 Advisory Committee struggled to assure greater benefits; the ultimate test will be in the number of signatories to the MOU.



The benefits to agricultural water suppliers include:

- ▶ a chance to document existing efficient water management
- ▶ an opportunity to discover efficiencies that may have been previously overlooked
- ▶ the formation of an Agricultural Water Management Council that will become the focal point for issues regarding agricultural water use efficiency
- ▶ once a plan is endorsed, all agricultural and environmental interests will stand behind that plan in any regulatory or adjudicatory proceeding

The benefits to environmental groups are:

- ▶ a chance to better understand agricultural water use and management
- ▶ an opportunity to work cooperatively with agricultural water suppliers
- ▶ the occasion to discover and effect efficient water management practices that were previously unrecognized

This MOU does not affect water suppliers' existing authorities, responsibilities, and duties. It allows the water supplier to manage any conserved water in any manner now allowed by law. There is nothing to prevent legislative or administrative actions making agricultural efficient water management practices mandatory. That risk existed before—and will continue to exist; yet, **a strong membership in the MOU will send a clear signal that voluntary processes work and regulatory controls are unnecessary.**

Let us sign this MOU and get on with the work of efficient water management. Just as **no facilities** can be built without hard work, **no efficient water management** can occur without the same.

Water Conservation *news briefs*

Over 200 Urban Water Management Plans Received

The Water Conservation Office has received 210 Urban Water Management Plans and reviewed 190 of them. Another 80 plans are expected to be submitted. When all the plans are reviewed, WCO staff will provide feedback to each individual water agency before submitting a summary report to the Legislature. Those agencies that have requested a time extension or have not submitted a plan should have received a reminder by now. Contact Deborah Braver at (916) 327-1770 (e-mail: dbraver@water.ca.gov).

Mobile Lab Partnership with Southern California Edison

Three years ago DWR staff worked closely with representatives of Southern California Edison to explain the benefits of irrigation system evaluations for energy conservation. SCE's management approved this integrated resource management approach when dealing with its agricultural and landscape customers. For the third consecutive year, SCE has provided funding for water/energy conservation work by mobile labs in San Diego, Riverside, and Kern counties. Contact Arturo Carvajal at (916) 327-1622 (e-mail: arturoc@water.ca.gov) or Tom Olson of SCE in Victorville at (909) 930-8414.

Automated Downloading of California Irrigation Management Information System Data

The Ceres Corporation's California office, located in Davis, provides a broad spectrum of information services to its agricultural clients. These services include the management of agribusiness and commodity databases. DWR's CIMIS staff provided a script to Ceres to automate the downloading of data from all the weather stations. The script will allow Ceres, under its AgWeather menu, to easily disseminate CIMIS data through its home page (<http://www.ceresgroup.com/ceres>). Contact Simon Eching at (916) 327-1836 (e-mail: seching@water.ca.gov) or Stephen Flanagan of the Ceres Corporation at the web site above.

Rates Design Guidebook Nears Completion

The Rates Project Advisory Committee of the California Urban Water Conservation Council met in August to refine the ***Conservation Oriented Rates Design Guidebook***. The Guidebook authors include many well-known rate design consultants and academicians in the United States, including the authors of the ***AWWA M-1 Manual on Water Rate Design***. The CUWCC Advisory Committee has included staff from smaller water agencies to help revise the final draft and to improve its clarity. The final version will be completed this fall, with publication and distribution in early 1997 to CUWCC members and other urban agencies. Contact Deborah Braver at (916) 327-1770 (e-mail: dbraver@water.ca.gov).

Fresno State and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Join Forces

For many years, WCO has had a very good working relationship with the Center for Irrigation Technology at Fresno State University and the Irrigation Training and Research Center at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Recently, Dr. Ken Solomon, the past Director of CIT, was appointed head of the Bioresources and Agricultural Engineering Department at Cal Poly. WCO staff are looking forward to strengthening their relationship with Ken and Dr. Charles Burt at Cal Poly. WCO staff will also continue their close working relationship with David Zoldoske, Director of CIT. The California Agricultural Technology Institute at Fresno State includes CIT. According to WCO's Chief Ed Craddock, "We want CIMIS Update to be a continuing section of CATI News." Contact Baryohay Davidoff at (916) 327-1788 (e-mail: baryohay@water.ca.gov).

Two Big California Businesses Awarded Grants to Improve Water Use Efficiency

The U.S. Department of Energy announced that 5 of the 14 National Industrial Competitiveness through Energy, Environment, and Economics (NICE3) grants will go to California companies. The awards will go to projects that demonstrate energy-efficient and waste-reduction technologies. Tri Valley Growers in Madera County and Louisiana Pacific of Humboldt County will receive grants (around \$400,000 each) to significantly improve their water use efficiency and reduce wastewater discharge. Contact Duane Rohrer, Tri Valley Growers, at (209) 572-5980 or Kirk Girard, Louisiana Pacific, at (707) 443-7511.

IBM Releases Electronic Drought Atlas

IBM recently released the ***National Electronic Drought Atlas***, the first CD-ROM-based interactive tool designed to help everyone from weather forecasters to farmers better plan for and deal with the excesses of nature.

Based on statistical methods designed by IBM, the ***National Electronic Drought Atlas*** is a tool for anyone interested in rainfall. The Atlas allows users to analyze rainfall records to estimate the likelihood of too much or too little rain at more than a thousand locations across the United States. In addition to precipitation, the Atlas contains temperature data for more than 1,000 locations. The Atlas provides frequency estimates of rainfall amounts based on accumulated historical precipitation data—dating back 85 years—prepared by the U.S. National Climatic Data Center. Users of the CD-ROM can analyze rainfall and drought probabilities for periods of one, two, three, or six months, beginning at any month during the year. For more information, contact Kendra R. Collins, IBM Research, (914) 945-3584 (e-mail: kcollins@watson.ibm.com).

AB 3616

(continued from page 1)

meeting will be held in early 1997. The exact time, place, and location will be announced at meetings, through fliers and letters, in water agency newsletters, and by personal contacts.

The Specifics

Signing the MOU is voluntary; however, if suppliers foresee specific benefits and choose to become a signatory, they agree to take specific actions. They agree to abide by the provisions of the MOU in general, which includes developing a water management plan using a specified net benefit analysis.

There are differing levels of minimum effort that water supplier signatories must make based on the circumstances and the type of practice. The MOU has two types of Efficient Water Management Practices:

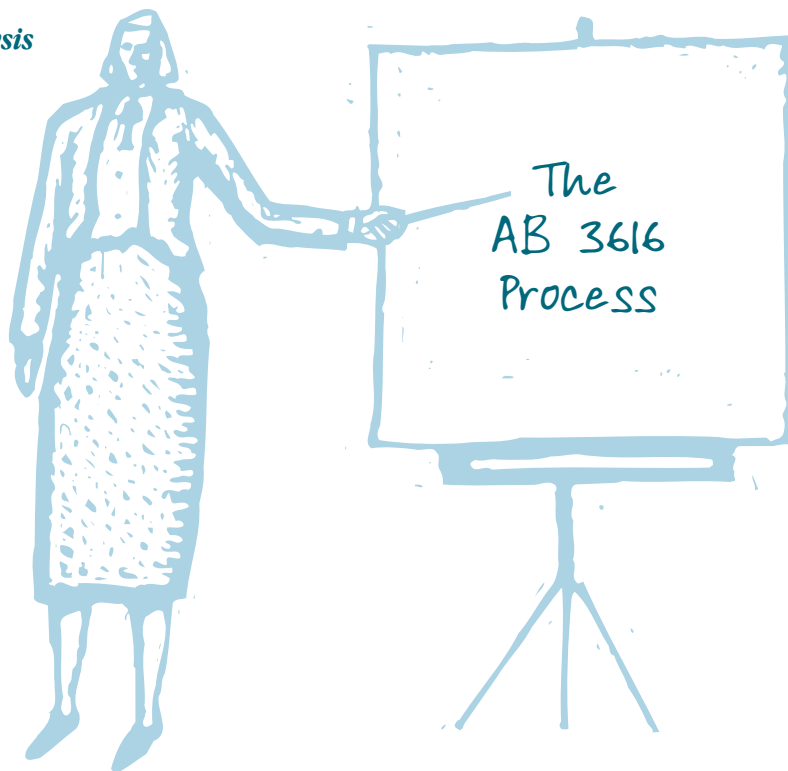
- ▶ practices that every water supplier signatory will implement, and
- ▶ practices that will be conditioned upon analysis of the water supplier's circumstances.

Net Benefit Analysis

Water supplier signatories will, as part of the water management plan, complete an analysis of the practices using the net benefit analysis provided. The basis for the NBA is a technical analysis which includes assessments of environmental, financial, and third-party effects. It will allow the water supplier to determine which EWMPs are inappropriate and, therefore, exempted from implementation. For instance, the practice would not have to be implemented if it were inappropriate under present water supplier circumstances, technically infeasible, or had negative net benefits. Conversely, practices with positive net benefits would be implemented.

For Further Information

For further information or to be placed on the mailing list for AB 3616 updates, contact Baryohay Davidoff at the Department of Water Resources at (916) 327-1788 (e-mail: baryohay@water.ca.gov).



Signers of the MOU automatically become members of the Agricultural Water Management Council.

The MOU will become effective when 15 or more water agencies totaling 2,000,000 acres or more become signatories.

Within 90 days of the effective date of the MOU (allowing for time to gather signatures), the Agricultural Water Management Council will meet.

Within two years of the effective date of the MOU, signatory water suppliers will submit water management plans pursuant to the MOU. (The Council will review and endorse or take no action on plans submitted.)

Annual reports on the implementation of the endorsed plan will be submitted for the initial term of the MOU (five years).



Water Conservation Information

To help you determine who in DWR to contact for specific water conservation or demand management information, **WCN** staff is publishing the following list. You may even want to pull the list out of this issue to use for future reference.

—Division of Local Assistance
1020 Ninth Street
Sacramento,
California 95814

Agricultural Drainage Programs

San Joaquin Valley Drainage Implementation Program
Manucher Alemi
Telephone: (916) 327-1630
E-mail: malemi@water.ca.gov

San Joaquin Valley Drainage Relief Program (Land Retirement)
Phil Wendt
Telephone: (916) 327-1660
E-mail: pwendt@water.ca.gov

Financial Assistance Water Conservation Project Loans
Dave Rolph
Telephone: (916) 455-8259
E-mail: drolph@water.ca.gov

Water Conservation Urban & Agricultural Programs—General
Ed Craddock
Telephone: (916) 327-1655
E-mail: craddock@water.ca.gov

Urban Programs—General
Keith Watkins
Telephone: (916) 327-1808
E-mail: kwatkins@water.ca.gov

Urban Water Management Plans
Deborah Braver
Telephone: (916) 327-1770
E-mail: dbraver@water.ca.gov

Urban Partnership Programs
Keith Watkins
Telephone: (916) 327-1808
E-mail: kwatkins@water.ca.gov

Water Audits & Leak Detection Program
Charles Pike
Telephone: (916) 327-1649
E-mail: cpike@water.ca.gov

Industrial, Commercial & Institutional Program
Charles Pike
Telephone: (916) 327-1649
E-mail: cpike@water.ca.gov

Landscape Programs
Marsha Prillwitz
Telephone: (916) 327-1620
E-mail: marshap@water.ca.gov

Urban Best Management Practices
Deborah Braver
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E-mail: dbraver@water.ca.gov

Agricultural Programs—General
Baryohay Davidoff
Telephone: (916) 327-1788
E-mail: baryohay@water.ca.gov

Agricultural Efficient Water Management Practices (AB 3616)
Baryohay Davidoff
Telephone: (916) 327-1788
E-mail: baryohay@water.ca.gov

Agricultural Water Management Planning (AB 1658)
Baryohay Davidoff
Telephone: (916) 327-1788
E-mail: baryohay@water.ca.gov

**California Irrigation
Management Information
System (CIMIS)**

Simon Eching
Telephone: (916) 327-1836
E-mail: seching@water.ca.gov

**CIMIS Maintenance & Site
Criteria**

David Moellenberndt
Telephone: (916) 327-1792
E-mail: davidm@water.ca.gov

**Mobile Irrigation
Management Laboratory**

Arturo Carvajal
Telephone: (916) 327-1622
E-mail: arturoc@water.ca.gov

**Agricultural Training &
Education**

Arturo Carvajal
Telephone: (916) 327-1622
E-mail: arturoc@water.ca.gov

**Agricultural Drainage
Reduction Program**

Fawzi Karajeh
Telephone: (916) 327-1828
E-mail: fkarajeh@water.ca.gov

Drought Mitigation

Ed Craddock
Telephone: (916) 327-1655
E-mail: craddock@water.ca.gov

**Water Recycling
Water Recycling Program—
General**

Steve Kasower
Telephone: (916) 327-1666
E-mail: kasower@water.ca.gov

Publications

Division Publications

Lynda Dale Herren
Telephone: (916) 327-1654
E-mail: lherren@water.ca.gov

Water Transfers

**Water Transfers—Drought
Water Bank**

Dennis Letl
Telephone: (916) 327-1764
E-mail: letl@water.ca.gov

**—Northern District
2440 Main Street
Red Bluff, California
96080-2398**

**Water Conservation
Programs**

Tito Cervantes
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E-mail: cervante@water.ca.gov

**—Central District
3251 S Street
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California 95816-
7017**

**Water Conservation
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Ed Morris
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E-mail: emorris@water.ca.gov

**—San Joaquin District
3374 East Shields
Avenue
Fresno, California
93726-6990**

**Water Conservation
Programs**

David Scruggs
Telephone: (209) 445-5262
E-mail: dscruggs@water.ca.gov

**—Southern District
770 Fairmont Avenue
Glendale, California
91203-1035**

**Water Conservation
Programs**

David Inouye
Telephone: (818) 543-4600
E-mail: davidi@water.ca.gov

**—Office of Water
Education
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento,
California 95814**

**News Media and
Information**

Anita Garcia-Fante
Telephone: (916) 653-0975
E-mail: anita@water.ca.gov

Water Education

Carolyn Tucker
Telephone: (916) 653-9892
E-mail: carolyn@water.ca.gov

**Water Conservation
Center**

Jim Bailey or Vondalee Dodson
Telephone: (916) 653-2980
E-mail: baileyj@water.ca.gov
vdodson@water.ca.gov



Summary of Major California Water Legislation

on Conservation, Recycling, and Transfers

SB 900 [(Costa, Chapter 135, Statutes of 1996) Proposition 204]

Would help restore the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and improve water supply reliability throughout the State. This \$995 million measure is the largest California water general obligation bond in 36 years.

Status: Proposition 204 is on the November 1996 ballot.

AB 125 (Rainey) Water Supply

Would amend the current mediation process to allow one party in a dispute over terms of agreement for the sale of recycled water to commence a mediation process and to pay for the cost of such a process. The costs would be divided if both parties agreed to the process.

Status: Failed passage in Legislature.

AB 3344 (Brewer) Irvine Ranch Water District Reclamation Project

Would prohibit the discharge of reclaimed water into Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve until January 1, 2007.

Status: Failed passage in Legislature.

SB 1904 (Senate Committee on Agriculture and Water Resources) Committee Omnibus Bill

Would add the Department of Water Resources to the list of agencies which currently have access to recent data on property sales held by the county assessor and would authorize DWR to make grants from Safe Drinking Water Bond funds and loans from the Water Conservation Bond funds.

Status: Signed by the Governor on September 15, 1996.

SB Preprint 15 (Costa) Water Transfers

This bill would repeal the existing water transfer provisions in the Water Code and in their place establish a two-tier procedure involving expedited short-term transfer proposals and long-term transfers. There would also be an expedited, though voluntary, procedure for transfers of "conserved water" as defined. Pre-1914 water rights holders would remain exempt from State Water Resources Control Board jurisdiction, although some notice provisions would apply. The bill would authorize a water user to participate as "co-petitioner" in a short-term or long-term transfer petition process, or as a "co-transferor" in the case of a conserved water transfer.

Status: Available for review; interim hearings may be held.

CII Workshop to Help Irrigators Increase Irrigation Efficiency

If you want to increase your irrigation efficiency but do not have a lot of time or money, sign up for the 35th annual meeting of the California Irrigation Institute on January 28-29, 1997 at the Holiday Inn Centre Plaza in Fresno.

Included in the conference cost of \$120, you may sign up for a "hands on" workshop on the California Irrigation Management Information System. (This workshop is for growers **and** large turf managers.) You will find out how to

"plug into" weather data by using a computer and how to use this data to calculate the water needs of your crop or turf during various seasons of the year. The workshop will be very practical and "user friendly." It will be a "must" for those who want to save time, money, energy, and water through 21st century irrigation technology.

The overall annual meeting theme is "The Bottom Line—Making Irrigation Pay." Participants will be able to attend a number of concur-

rent sessions during the two-day meeting on such subjects as computers in water management, crop response to water, demand management, irrigation costs, and drainage. In addition, general sessions will be held on "The Cost of Reliable Water" and "Federal Agricultural Policy."

Sign up now because space will be limited!

To receive a copy of the meeting announcement, which will be distributed in December, contact Jeanne

Duncan, CII's Executive Assistant, by November 1, 1996. She can be reached by telephone at (916) 366-9376; or by mail at 3555 Gold Creek Lane, Sacramento, California 95827. If responding by mail, please include the form below.

☐

Yes!

I want to attend the 35th Annual Meeting of the California Irrigation Institute.

☐

Yes!

I'm interested in attending the CIMIS workshop.

Please send an announcement to me at the following address:

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Please return this form by November 1, 1996 to Jeanne Duncan, 3555 Gold Creek Lane, Sacramento, California 95827.



New

water conservation-related
PUBLICATIONS

The following publications are available **free** from: **Department of Water Resources**
Bulletins and Reports
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 653-1097

*Water Conservation News—Special 16th Anniversary Edition: Water Conservation:
Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow,
July 1996*

Cost: Free

This issue of WCN highlights the water conservation programs of yesterday, today, and tomorrow to give the reader a perspective of the changes that have occurred over the years—what Californians have learned from these programs, where they are now, and where they may be in the future. This marks the 15th year of publication for WCN.

*The Economic Costs and Benefits Associated with the California Irrigation Management
Information System (CIMIS): Final Report, June 1996*

Cost: Free

This publication was produced by the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of California, Berkeley. It assesses the benefits that CIMIS provides to diverse users across the State and analyzes and discusses future CIMIS management options.

Water Conservation-Related Events in California

October 17-18, 1996

DWR Water Education Committee

Bahia Hotel, Mission Bay

Cost: Free

Telephone: (619) 682-4131

Meeting sponsored by the San Diego County Water Authority. New "Splash Science Mobile Lab" and "Traveling Library Kiosk" will be featured. Tour of San Diego Wild Animal Park to learn about its recycling program and to see its Xeriscape Garden; tour also of Aquaculture Water Treatment Plant in the San Pasqual Valley.

November 7, 1996 & December 2, 1996

Water Use Efficiency Work Group

(Subcommittee of the Bay Delta Advisory Council)

Department of Water Resources, Sacramento

Cost: Free

Telephone: (916) 657-2666

Meetings provide a forum for BDAC members and participants for policy guidance on water use efficiency. All meetings are open to the public.

November 21, 1996

Bay Delta Advisory Council Meeting

Burbank Airport, Burbank

Cost: Free

Telephone: (916) 657-2666

Bimonthly meeting. Open to the public.

December 4-6, 1996

Association of California Water Agencies

The Town & County Resort and Convention Center, San Diego

Cost: Preregistration for members \$295; for nonmembers \$445 (does not include meals).

Telephone: (916) 441-4545

1996 Fall Conference: *"California Water: The New Reality"*

December 10-12, 1996

1996 Landscape Water Management Program

Irrigation Training & Research Center, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

Cost: \$295

Telephone: (805) 756-2434

Techniques, data, and software tools to make the landscape water management process easier and more complete. Covers landscape irrigation auditing and landscape water budgeting.

December 11, 1996

CUWCC Plenary Meeting

California Urban Water Conservation Council, East Bay Municipal Utilities District, Oakland

Cost: Free

Telephone: (916) 552-5885

Quarterly meeting.

January 15, 1997

Landscape and Nursery Expo/1997

Sacramento Community Convention Center, Sacramento

For registration and fee information, call Margo Jonsson, Show Manager, (916) 442-4470. Sacramento Valley's premier landscape and nursery trade show with educational seminars. Seminars specifically geared for arborists, landscape professionals, turf managers, and nursery professionals.

January 28-29, 1997

"The Bottom Line—Making Irrigation Pay"

California Irrigation Institute, Holiday Inn Centre Plaza, Fresno

Cost: \$120

Telephone: (916) 366-9376

35th annual meeting of the California Irrigation Institute to educate those within and outside of the irrigation industry about all facets of irrigation in California.

January 30, 1997

Water Conservation Committee Meeting

Department of Water Resources, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and Southern California Edison Agricultural Technology Applications Center, Tulare

Cost: Free

Telephone: (916) 327-1655

The reactivation of the Water Conservation Advisory Committee in a new biannual format with a winter and summer meeting. This meeting will focus on irrigation water use and irrigation management related to inland growth on agricultural land.

February 6-7, 1997

"Northern California Turf and Landscape 1997 Expo"

Santa Clara Convention Center, Santa Clara

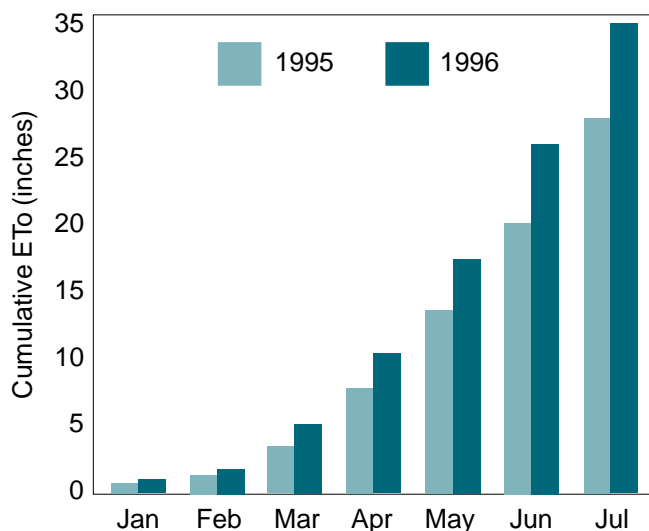
Cost: Free

Telephone: (510) 505-9600

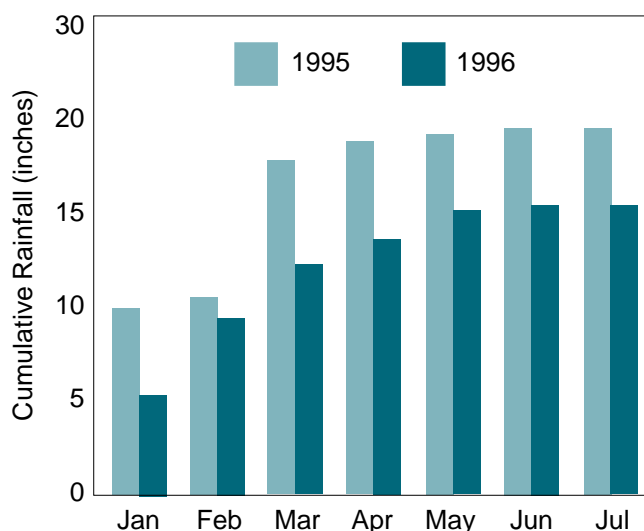
This exposition and educational seminar will have nearly 300 exhibit booths and 50 educational seminars.

CIMIS Network News

Cumulative Reference Evapotranspiration* for
Lodi
January to July 1995/96



Cumulative Rainfall for Lodi
January to July 1995/96



* Reference Evapotranspiration (ETo) is an estimate of the evapotranspiration of grass that provides an index of water use for all kinds of vegetation. ETo is estimated by weather stations making up the California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS). The charts above indicate that irrigation water use in Lodi this year should be about 45 percent higher than it was during the same time period last year.

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